

St. Anthony's Orphanage
1500 Indian School Road N.W.
Albuquerque
Bernalillo County
New Mexico

HABS No. NM-149

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

St. Anthony's Orphanage

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Page 1

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

ST. ANTHONY'S ORPHANAGE

(The Chapel, Classroom-Dormitory Bldg. & Auditorium)

Bernalillo County, New Mexico

I. INTRODUCTION:

Location:

1500 Indian School Road N.W., Albuquerque, New Mexico.

A tract of land situated in the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico, being a portion of Tract A, which is a portion of St. Anthony's Orphanage as the same is shown and designated on the plat thereof, filed in the office of the County Clerk of Bernalillo County, New Mexico, on September 1, 1950, and being more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCING at Corner No. 12 of the above-referenced plat, a point on the southerly right-of-way line of Indian School Road, and from said point running thence N 55° 31' 00" W, 37.38 feet along the southerly right-of-way line of Indian School Road, to a point; thence, S 24° 15' 20" W, 25.58 feet to the Point of Beginning of the tract herein described:

FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING; thence, S 74° 53' 20" W, 154.83 feet along the northwesterly boundary of the above-referenced Tract A; thence, S 59° 02' 20" 84.92 feet along the northwesterly boundary of said Tract A; thence, S 13° 51' 30" W, 136.40 feet along the northwesterly boundary of said Tract A; thence, S 13° 51' 30" W, 221.50 feet; thence, S 76° 14' 33" E, 186.84 feet; thence N 14° 53' 20" E, 492.50 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 1.90 acres, more or less. *(See explanation below regarding actual property size and

Warranty Deed.)

Said tract of land is situated in Section 7 (Projected), T 10 N, 4 3 3 of the N.M.P.M., Bernalillo County, New Mexico.

*The Warranty Deed for the property, dated 15 June 1971, describes the entire site as "containing 19.69 acres, more or less." 1.90 acres constitutes the land on which the buildings actually stand as identified in the Determination of Eligibility as a historic district.

Quad:

Albuquerque West Quadrangle.

U.T.M.:

13 - 384650 - 3886200

Date of Construction:

Classroom-Dormitory - 1920 - 1924¹

Auditorium - 1920 - 1924¹

Chapel - 1931²

Original Owner:

St. Anthony's Orphanage for Boys

Sisters of St. Francis

Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901

Current Owner:

U.S. Department of Labor

200 Constitution N.W.

Washington D.C. 20210

Present Use:

The Sisters of St. Francis sold St. Anthony's Orphanage to the U.S. Department of Labor in 1971. The site currently serves as the Albuquerque Job Corps Center. The Chapel, now referred to as 'Building E', serves as the Education Classroom Building. The Classroom-Dormitory, now referred to as 'Building F', serves as the

Vocational Education Building. The Auditorium, now 'Building H', is presently used for storage but previously served as the Gym-Auditorium Building. All three buildings are scheduled for demolition in March 1989.

Significance:

The Chapel, the Classroom-Dormitory Building and the Auditorium at St. Anthony's Orphanage stand as rare institutional examples of Mission Style architecture in New Mexico. They constitute a three building historic complex. They are even more significant in terms of their social, humanitarian and educational use. Over 5,000 children were cared for and educated in these buildings. Once one of the most lush and beautiful facilities in Albuquerque, it served as a focus of charitable and humanitarian spirit for over fifty years.

Historians:

Gregory T. Hicks, Registered Architect

Rolf M. Evenson, Intern Architect

Gregory T. Hicks & Associates, P.C.

Albuquerque, New Mexico

II. HISTORY:

St. Anthony's Orphanage, founded in 1913, emerged as the first orphanage facility for boys in New Mexico. The orphanage's founders, Sister Genero and Sister Evarista, arrived in Albuquerque after a long journey on 14 February 1913. Members of the Order of St. Francis Seraph of Lafayette, Indiana, the sisters were welcomed by a Jesuit Priest, Father Mandalari of the Immaculate Conception Church in Albuquerque. Interested members of the community hosted a welcome banquet for the sisters at the Alvarado Hotel.³

With Father Mandalari's assistance, the sisters wasted no time locating suitable land for the orphanage. They accepted fifty acres as a gift from the Jesuit Fathers of Old Albuquerque. Located just north of Albuquerque, and east of the Rio Grande, the land was level and, since it could be irrigated,

potentially fertile. Since the sisters planned to raise much of their own food, the land's fertility was essential to the success of their venture. The nuns received their first orphans, ages five and six, on 24 February, just ten days after their arrival. By spring they had twenty-five children in their care.⁴

Planning for a new orphanage building began immediately. Ground was broken for the new orphanage on 26 May 1913.⁵ The sisters and children lived in an existing five room adobe building on the site from which they could watch the construction of their new home.

Ground work for the sister's remarkable progress had been laid in previous years by members of the community. They had recognized the need for an orphanage in New Mexico for some time; in fact, many orphans had been sent out of state for lack of such a facility.⁶ Father Mandalari, a prominent pastor within the community who served the Immaculate Conception Church for thirty years,⁷ led fundraising and organizational efforts. A committee consisting of Father Mandalari, Albuquerque Mayor D. K. B. Sellers, O. N. Marron and Rabbi Mendel Silber of Congregation Albert led a state-wide campaign to raise funds for the new building. The building was ultimately constructed for \$45,000. The people of Albuquerque contributed more than \$6,000; Archbishop J. B. Pitaval D.D. of Santa Fe donated \$19,000. Architect J. L. LaDriere contributed his professional services gratis. Six months after completion, debts had been reduced to \$15,000. Fundraising continued through the years, led by the sisters' efforts as they traveled throughout the state.⁸

On 2 June 1914, construction crews completed the orphanage's new building (Photo No. 1). There can be little doubt the community held the results of their work, a new facility with accommodations for 165 children, in high regard. The Albuquerque Evening Herald celebrated the event in its issue 19 May 1914:

"One more great public institution has been added to Albuquerque's steadily growing list.

One more pressing need of the city and of New Mexico in charitable and educational work has been filled.

One more very important forward step in the social progress of the city and state has been taken.

Albuquerque has recorded one more striking evidence of its community loyalty and public spirit.

All these things and many others well worth thinking about are summed up in the beautiful Moorish-Mission (style) building on which the finishing touches are being put this week in Bourgade Place, two miles north of the city limits, known as Saint Anthony's Orphanage for Boys."⁹

Archbishop Pitaval dedicated the new orphanage on 25 October 1914. The building's main floor contained the chapel, offices, reception rooms, school rooms and girls' dormitory. The kitchen, playroom and nurseries could be found in the rear of the building. The boys' dormitory, capable of housing up to 150 youth under age 14, occupied the third level. Observers at the time considered St. Anthony's a "thoroughly modern building and practically fire proof"¹⁰, and all the more interesting for being made of adobe.¹¹

The orphanage's architect was the

"elusive Joseph L. La Driere. Born in Quebec in 1860, originally named Telesphor Flamand, La Driere came to Albuquerque in 1900.

He invented a puncture-proof tire, was an Oldsmobile distributor, designed the University of New Mexico's first chemistry building and St. Mary's Hospital in Gallup and is credited with the design of a fabled Albuquerque landmark, the Barnett Building at 200 W. Central Ave."¹²

The sparkling new facility illicited an immediate response. Orphans began arriving from throughout the state. The need for a school quickly emerged and three additional Sisters arrived in the summer of 1914 to organize it. The first school opened on 20 August 1914, with forty orphans attending.¹³

On 6 January 1915, Rev. J. Hartman was appointed Chaplain. He served in this capacity for eighteen of the next twenty years.¹⁴

By the early twenties, the orphanage had 175 children in its care. They had already outgrown the original building. Substantial additions were made at a cost of \$100,000. An attached three-story Classroom-Dormitory (Photo No. A1) was added to the south side of the original building between 1920 and 1924¹. It housed a kitchen, dining hall and laboratories for conducting the annual summer school for teachers on the first level; classrooms were situated on the second level and dormitories on the third. A corridor on the west side of the building connected the Classroom-Dormitory to the Auditorium (No. B1). The Auditorium had a proscenium, stage, dressing rooms and seating space for 700 people.

At this time the original building was extensively remodeled. Its stucco exterior was refaced with the same brick as the new additions. Additional existing buildings on the site were a laundry, a boiler house, a large barn, sheds for farm equipment and a septic tank.¹⁵

A new chapel building, attached to the northside side of the original building, was completed in 1931 (No. C1). The first mass was held for Sister Theonilla, who died that year. The Chapel consisted of small classrooms on the first level, a sanctuary and rectory on the second level and a choir loft on the mezzanine level overlooking the sanctuary.

During the 1930's the Sisters purchased forty-one additional acres from the Jesuit Fathers, creating a total site of ninety-one acres. Gradually the naturally barren land had blossomed under the care of many hard-working hands. An Albuquerque newspaper article, specific date unknown, described the kinds of tasks shared by the 100-200 children generally living at the orphanage:

"Each boy old enough to work is assigned a specific job about the home or farm. Assignments are changed each month in order to break the monotony and so the boys can learn to do numerous things. Among the assignments are work in the dining room and laundry, bakery, chicken house, main building hall, chapel, vegetable room, kitchen, school buildings, the yards, nursery, barn, basement, boiler room, incinerator, library, sewing room, playgrounds and others.

Livestock maintained on the farm to furnish food for the home now includes 40 milk cows and calves, two goats to provide milk for the nursery, about 100 rabbits, around 900 hens, 70 turkeys and 10 hogs."¹⁶

Slowly, through the years, the sisters and orphans transformed the barren land into one of the most lush and beautiful environs in the city. "There were spacious lawns, a fine orchard, a large garden area, poultry yards, a swimming pool, a baseball diamond, and play grounds with modern equipment. The rest of the area was planted with alfalfa and grain."¹⁷

St. Anthony's played an important role, not only in the lives of the children, but also in the lives of individual members of the community and beyond. From 1921-1946, for example, the St. Francis Summer College held classes for nuns and lay persons at St. Anthony's. For eighteen years the program was affiliated with St. Bonaventure College, New York. In 1940, the program affiliated with the University of New Mexico; the name changed to The Catholic Teachers College of New Mexico.¹⁸ Community involvement took other forms as well. For years the children remembered and feared the orphanage's bull, a Golden Guernsey donated by dairyman George Thatcher.¹⁹

"Pete and Bobby Matteucci at Paris Shoes gave each child a pair of new shoes each Christmas. Dr. John Phelan and his son, Dr. Jack Phelan, provided free dental service for 44 years.

Johnny Baca, a former Albuquerque policeman who was blind and ran a concession stand at the old City Hall, was a St. Anthony's alumnus who collected sacks of candy, fruit and nuts for everyone at Christmas.

Springer Corp. donated sand and candles each Christmas, allowing busloads of orphans to sell and set up luminarias. Wenk's Farm in Corrales let the children pick apples in the autumn. A local businessman, who never allowed the nuns to reveal his name, gave each child \$10 to attend the State Fair."²⁰

Perhaps the most enthusiastic expression of community goodwill occurred on 10 September 1949 during

the "Farm-in-a-Day" program. Scores of volunteers arrived that morning with tools, materials and heavy machinery to remodel and repair buildings, move and plant trees, fill holes, level fields, and seed lawns. Skilled laborers, carpenters, engineers, electricians, plumbers and many others labored from dawn to dusk to complete the task.²¹

Several events during the ensuing years are noteworthy. In 1954, the City of Albuquerque requested and received from the orphanage 11 acres required for the Twelfth Street extension. A new recreation building designed by A.W. Boehning and built in 1955, included two recreation halls, office rooms, a utility room and bathrooms. In 1959, the Sisters of St. Francis had a nursery added to the main building; they also erected three dormitory cottages, each including a bedroom and bath for one sister. Over eight hundred citizens toured the facility on 9 May 1963 during the Golden Jubilee Celebration.²²

By 1965 the farm and dairy were problematic. In the years since 1914, the City of Albuquerque had grown north and engulfed the orphanage. Finally, farming and raising livestock proved incompatible with urban development. On 15 September 1965, the orphanage auctioned off their livestock. Fifty years of farming and raising much of their own food ended on that day.²³

Ground breaking for a new convent and administration building took place on 26 February 1966.²⁴ The residence, chapel and administration facility proved to be the final building project at the orphanage.²⁵

Numerous celebrities recognized the orphanage's value and service to some 5,000 children through the years.

"When Roy Rogers and Dale Evans played the State Fair, they visited St. Anthony's and let the children sit atop Trigger. When Sen. Robert Kennedy was running for president in 1968, he stopped at St. Anthony's and ate lunch with the orphans.

When Sonny Liston, the heavyweight champion who was the most ferocious athlete of the 1960s, drove from his Denver home to vacation in Juarez, Mexico, he always stopped at St. Anthony's to spar with the kids and recall his own wayward youth. The Harlem Globetrotters

gave a free exhibition in the old gym.

It all ended in 1971.

The Sisters of St. Francis, an order located in Colorado Springs, sold the property for \$1.5 million to the Department of Labor."²⁶

Rising costs, declining numbers of children at the institution, and drastic changes in child-care concepts had finally rendered the orphanage impractical.²⁷

St. Anthony's Orphanage closed on 21 May 1971. Since that time the site has served the U. S. Department of Labor as the Albuquerque Job Corps.

III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Classroom-Dormitory and Auditorium (1920-1924) and the Chapel (1931) were built as additions to the original adobe orphanage building (1914). The original building was demolished in 1963 by the orphanage, leaving the three additions standing as independent buildings. As of this writing they remain standing. All three buildings, however, are slated for demolition as early as March 1989.

Classroom-Dormitory Building:

Architect Elson H. Norris of Albuquerque designed the Classroom-Dormitory and Auditorium additions. The construction company Wegs & Thompkins of Albuquerque, served as the project's contractors. Original plans no longer exist.

The Classroom-Dormitory is a three-story rectangular building constructed of masonry bearing walls with brick veneer. It is an example of the Institution Mission Style. The brick used, known as "El Paso clinker brick", had a slightly bluish tint. The north facade is covered with stucco where the Dormitory once connected with the original demolished adobe building (Photo No. A3). Approximately sixty feet

wide by one hundred twenty feet long, the brick veneer coursing style is common bond with a Flemish header every sixth course. There are one-hundred-thirty-six wood six-light over six-light double-hung windows with three-light hopper windows above (A6). The windows are in groups of three on the east and west sides and groups of two on the north and south sides. The windows have rowlock brick sills; brick coursing protrudes above the windows, highlighting them. Entrance steps and landings are constructed of concrete.

The building has a hipped roof. The stairwell at the north end of the building also has a hipped roof which ties into the main roof. Dormers, each with two single-light double-hung windows, protrude from the main roof, two on the east and two on the west (A2). The roof is constructed of steel trusses, wood purlins and a wood deck, covered with asbestos roof tile.

On the inside of the building functional spaces such as classrooms flank a central, double-loaded corridor (A7). The most notable feature on the interior of the Classroom-Dormitory are the stamped tin ceilings. One can see several unique designs in the hallways, stairwells and classrooms (A8, A9, A11). Most of the original wood stud and plaster walls still exist. The original building had automatic metal fire doors installed at the ends of each corridor and in the entrance to the Auditorium.

The building was renovated in 1971 when the Job Corps first occupied it. Drywall partitions have been added during the process of remodeling. Dormitory spaces on the third floor and kitchen-dining spaces on the first floor became the classrooms now used by the Job Corps. In a few cases original walls have been paneled. Stucco has been applied to the masonry walls at the entrance perimeters. The original wood double entrance doors and transoms have been replaced with hollow metal doors and transoms. Most original interior doors and frames have been replaced with hollow metal doors and frames. The once operable wood-framed transoms, above all interior doors, were boarded up in the 1971 renovation. In one of the interior spaces on the second level, the original classroom level, there remains one wood door with an operable transom which appears to exist as it was built (A10). All of the wood-framed windows are original. The wood stairs at the north and south ends of the building have wood newel posts, railings and balusters. In most places these railings have been covered with plywood or replaced with metal railings (A8, A9).

Structurally, the building appears to be sound. The building is connected to the Auditorium by a short

corridor. Some of the exterior windows have been boarded up or blocked up to allow for the addition of a small masonry block storage unit, wedged between the two buildings on the northeast corner of the Auditorium. Some exterior and interior doors have been sealed with plywood. The south facade has a three-story steel fire escape attached to the building (A5). When the original adobe building was demolished at the north end, a new block masonry wall was constructed.

In summation, the Classroom-Dormitory exemplifies the Institutional Mission Style which is rare in New Mexico. The most significant architectural features of the building's exterior include the brick exterior walls, fenestration details and the hipped roof. Significant interior features include original wood doors and transoms, stamped tin ceilings, and wood stair details.

The Auditorium:

Also designed by E. H. Norris and built by Wegs & Thompkins between 1920 - 1924, the Institutional Mission style Auditorium stands several feet to the west of the Classroom-Dormitory. It is connected to the Classroom-Dormitory by a short corridor which is similar in construction to both buildings. This building, used both as a gym and auditorium, is a one-story rectangular building also constructed of masonry bearing walls with brick veneer.

Approximately seventy feet wide by fifty feet long, the building's brick veneer coursing style is common bond with a Flemish header every sixth course. There are twenty-one wood nine-light over nine-light double-hung windows with screens. The windows have rowlock brick sills; brick coursing protrudes above the windows, highlighting them (B5). The hipped roof is intersected by a dormer on the north and south sides. Each dormer has a pair of single-light double-hung windows. There is a gabled roof on a projection booth and a flat roof on a storeroom addition at the east end where the Auditorium connects to the Dormitory. The main roof is constructed of steel trusses, wood purlins, a wood deck and asbestos roof tile. The north exterior entrance appears to be original with multi-glass paned windows and double doors with an operable glass transom. At the east entrance, the original doors have been replaced with hollow metal doors; the wood-framed operable transom above appears to be original. The entrance steps and landings are concrete.

The building consists of a large auditorium space with a stage, wings and dressing rooms located on the

west side (B6). Interior ceilings in the auditorium and the stage area are constructed of stamped tin (B7). The remaining areas have plaster ceilings. The walls are constructed of masonry covered with plaster, the stage and its stairs of wood. The wood floor of the gym covers a crawl space through which pass steam pipes. An air conditioning unit has been installed on the roof beside the north dormer. There is a small projection room on the east side above the connecting corridor between the Auditorium and the Classroom-Dormitory.

Structurally, the building appears to be sound.

In summation, the Auditorium also exemplifies the Institutional Mission Style in New Mexico. The most significant architectural features of the Auditorium's exterior are its fenestration details. Significant interior features include stamped tin ceilings, the stage and proscenium.

The Chapel:

Architect A. W. Boehning of Albuquerque designed the Chapel addition in 1930. He dated the construction drawings 30 September of that year. As the first mass was held in the new chapel in 1931, we can assume construction was complete at that time. The Chapel, in particular, is a fine institutional example of the California Mission Style which is rare in Albuquerque.²⁸ Original plans are on file at the John Gaw Meem Archive of Southwestern Architecture, Special Collections, General Library, University of New Mexico.

The Chapel, a two-story rectangular building, is constructed of masonry bearing walls with brick veneer (C1). Approximately seventy-five feet wide by one hundred and one feet long, the brick veneer coursing style is common bond with a Flemish header every sixth course. There are sixty-six windows with metal or wood frames. The wood windows are single-light double-hung. The metal windows are on the second level and have a radius head with pre-cast cement trim and sills (C6). A rose window highlights the north gable end. The gable roof has three single stack chimneys; two penetrate the eaves at the main roof, the third at the shed roof of a stairwell. The main roof is constructed of steel trusses with wood purlins and a wood deck covered by asbestos roof tile. The parapets and endwall ridge caps are of precast masonry (C7). The entrance canopies are wood-framed with clay tile.

The original first floor plan of the interior consisted of small classrooms located off a central corridor. The second floor plan consisted of a large stairwell landing which served as an entrance vestibule to the sanctuary and the rectory on the east side. A raised altar was located at the north end of the sanctuary below a rose window. A choir loft is located above the stairwell at the south end of the sanctuary (C9). The sanctuary had a decorative plaster cathedral ceiling. This ceiling, presently obstructed from view, is divided into three rows of rectangular, recessed sections bordered by plaster beams (C10). In the center of each section of the center row is an ornamental plaster vent grille approximately 2' - 6" in diameter. The grille design is similar to that of a wagon wheel (Photo No. 4). The original chapel walls are of highly textured plaster which can be viewed from within the interior classrooms off a central corridor. This texture is a uniquely raised finish with a troweled circular design, approximately 12" to 15" in diameter, and closely spaced (C11).

The interior layout of the chapel's second floor was altered in 1972 to accommodate the Job Corps Center's requirements for classroom space. The once spacious sanctuary interior, with its exposed decorative ornamental ceiling, is no longer evident. The ceiling is obstructed from view by a suspended acoustic tile ceiling (C10). The second floor sanctuary and the first floor spaces have been subdivided into various sized classrooms, offices and corridors. The interior ceiling and wall finishes have also been damaged by the installation of the new walls and ceiling. It is only at the mezzanine level, which once served as a choir loft, that the original sanctuary ceiling can be viewed above the suspended ceiling.

The choir loft, at the mezzanine level, is constructed of wood floors and wood railings (C9). It has been abandoned since the Job Corps began utilizing the building. In the former second floor rectory, which is now used as a teachers lounge, there is an original fireplace and built-in cabinets with glass doors. The fireplace is trimmed with clay tile and has a clay tile hearth (C8). The fireplace and cabinets appear to be in good condition. Throughout the building the wood stair railings have been enclosed with plywood and the wood finishes have been defaced. Original classroom wood doors remain in the building, however, the transoms have been boarded up. All of the interior floors, even the floors in the second floor sanctuary and nave, once patterned ceramic tile, are now finished with vinyl asbestos tile.

The building has been altered by the removal of the original adobe building from the south wall and the addition of a brick, one-story, flat roof addition, approximately thirty feet by eighteen feet (C5).

This addition is attached at the northwest corner of the building. Exterior alterations also include the addition of stucco at all main entrances beside the door frames. The exterior entrance canopies have wood decking and clay roofing tiles. The original wood entrance doors have been replaced with hollow metal doors and frames. Concrete steps and landings mark the entrances. Some of the original windows on the exterior wall have been removed and bricked up. On the interior, many of the molded plaster arches above the metal windows are cracked or missing.

In summation, the Chapel exemplifies the California Mission Style which is rare in New Mexico. Its most significant architectural characteristics are the exterior facades, fenestration details, parapets and roof, most notably the carved wood rafter-ends. Significant interior features include the plaster ceiling, the circular plaster wall finishes on the second floor, and the plaster window treatment.

IV. BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL:

Elson H. Norris²⁹

(1865-1931)

Elson Harvey Norris practiced architecture in New Mexico from 1913 to 1931. He was born in an unknown location in Ohio on May 24, 1865 and died in Riverside, California, on August 21, 1931. He married Hattie Lovella Butcher also of Ohio, precise location unknown, and they had one daughter, Merriam Norris Shigley, late of Riverside, California. Mrs. Shigley did not enter into any profession involving architecture, but her husband, Mr. Ora Shigley worked as a building inspector for the Riverside City Light Department. No direct documentary evidence has been unearthed concerning Norris' academic and professional life prior to his arrival in Albuquerque in 1913. Other than the belief of Louis G. Hesselden that Elson Norris had been trained as a carpenter and builder, none of his New Mexico contemporaries have recorded any more detailed recollections. As a clue to a previous residence, the Albuquerque obituary notice of the death of his wife Hattie on November 12, 1923 states that her body was shipped for burial to "the former home in Riverside, California," also the home of their married daughter. In addition, Elson Norris died while living in Riverside and was buried there with his wife in Evergreen Cemetery. Although it seems likely that he lived in Riverside before

coming to Albuquerque, no record of Elson Norris has been located to date among Riverside's historical documents.

The first documentary evidence of Norris in Albuquerque states that he worked as a foreman for J. A. Harlan & Son Construction Company from 1913 to 1915. During that period he also served as a supervising architect for the Gallup High School (1913) for Jack Head, Architect.

In 1915, Norris opened his own architectural office in Albuquerque at 119-1/2 W. Central Avenue, but moved it the following year to the more prestigious Cromwell Block at the corner of Gold Avenue and 2nd Street where it remained until 1931. From 1915 to 1929 the office functioned as a one person concern where Norris designed both new buildings, additions and alterations for existing ones.

Norris' standard approach to architecture during those years was to design a structure symmetrical in plan, elevation, and detail, and sheath it in features from whatever period or style suited the nature of the building and the needs of the client. Among his school buildings, in which he specialized, the Old Library Building (1926) on the University of New Mexico campus in Albuquerque is the best known example of this approach. Its design is symmetrical, involving a projecting central mass with flanking wings. Norris sheathed that design with plastered walls, tall windows, a flat roof and abstract high relief ornaments along the line of the roof beams. These features were reminiscent of the formal Spanish Pueblo Revival Style used by Henry Trost in Albuquerque's Franciscan Hotel (1923) and responded to the University's needs by harmonizing well with other Spanish Pueblo and Mayan Revival style buildings already present on the campus. All his school buildings, such as the Longfellow School (1927) that stood at the northeast corner of Grand and Edith in Albuquerque, and the school buildings for Estancia (19??)³⁰ and Mountainair (19??), were similarly symmetrical in design but reflected a wide variety of styles.

While all his commercial buildings such as the store building for E. W. Hall of Albuquerque (19??) or the Wet Wash Laundry (1920) that was located on Third Street in Albuquerque, as well as his apartment buildings, like the one for Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Wilson of Albuquerque (19??), retained that symmetrical design, some of his residences were more varied. Casa Blanca, the country home for Mr. T. B. Harlan of Los Lunas (19??) forced a marriage between symmetry and the Spanish Pueblo Revival

Style, but the Mediterranean Style Osoff Residence (1927) at 1909 Roma SE in Albuquerque and the well known John Milne Residence (1916) at 804 Park Avenue in Albuquerque are much freer and do not reflect an imposed symmetry of design.

Elson Norris also designed and remodeled several buildings for the Methodist Sanitarium in Albuquerque, nearly all of them in the California Mission Revival Style. While some of these, such as the Men's Dormitory (19??), reflected his characteristic formal symmetry, he relaxed this design in others such as the Boiler House (19??). Possibly his freest design is one of his churches, also a California Mission Revival Style building, the Spanish M. E. Church (19??) which stood on the corner of Gold and Sixth Street in Albuquerque.

In 1930 Norris expanded his office to include Joseph B. Burwinkle and William S. McMahon under the name of E. H. Norris and Co. The following year, when Norris was 66 years old, the firm became Burwinkle and McMahon, Successors to E. H. Norris and Co. At that time Norris moved to Riverside, California, where he lived for three months before dying of "appoplexy (sic)."

Sets of drawings on waxed linen for over seventy of Norris' projects form part of the John Gaw Meem Archive of Southwestern Architecture, Special Collections Department, Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. Designs for the Longfellow School are in the Albuquerque Public Schools Department of Facilities Planning and Construction.

Sources: Edna Heatherington Bergman, "The Fate of Architectural Theory in Albuquerque: Buildings of Four Decades 1920-1960." Unpub. M.Arch. Thesis, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, 1978; Susan Dewitt, Historic Albuquerque Today: An Overview Survey of Historic Buildings and Districts, Albuquerque Historic Landmarks Survey, 1978; Dorothy Hughes, Pueblo on the Mesa, The First Fifty Years at the University of New Mexico. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1939; Susan McColeman, "A History of the Buildings of the University of New Mexico 1890-1934," ms. on file, Office of the Campus Architect, University of New Mexico, 1984.

A. W. BOEHNING, SR.³¹

(1891-1962)

Albert William Boehning, Sr. was born in Shelbyville, Indiana on September 27, 1891. He married Henrietta Marohn in South Bend, Indiana, on June 21, 1917. Boehning came to Albuquerque in 1920 and died in Albuquerque on May 16, 1962. His two sons worked in his office. A.W Boehning, Jr. worked as a draftsman in the firm from 1946 to 1985. Joe Boehning, a registered architect and professional engineer, joined his father's firm in 1955 and today is the senior architect in the Boehning Partnership.

A. W. Boehning, Sr. had no formal training in architecture. His father was a carpenter and the younger Boehning worked as a carpenter and builder in South Bend, Indiana. He served in World War I, where he got tuberculosis. He came to Albuquerque for his health and worked first as a carpenter and then apprenticed with the Trost and Trost office in Albuquerque under the U. S. Veterans Bureau Placement for Disabled Veterans.

Boehning established the firm of Associated Architects with Neal W. Johnson and C. Wilbur Scoville in 1924. He then established an office in his home at 114-1/2 Elm NE in Albuquerque and simply listed himself as an architect. In 1931 he formed a partnership with Raymond R. Springman who previously had worked as a draftsman with George Williamson. This partnership continued for three years. In 1934, Boehning moved his home and office to 3521 Monte Vista Boulevard NE. Springman left the firm to work as a draftsman with the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. Boehning remained at the Monte Vista office until 1954, when the firm moved to 1841 Lomas Boulevard NE. When his son Joe became a professional engineer in 1957, the firm name was changed to Boehning and Boehning.

A. W. Boehning assisted in formulating the state architect's licensing law and was one of the first group of registered New Mexico architects, with registration #4. He served on the New Mexico Board of Examiners for Architects from 1931 to 1950 and was the first Board Secretary and later Board Chairman. He was also a corporate member of the American Institute of Architects. Major clients included the Bernalillo Schools and the Archdiocese of Santa Fe; he also served as the National Guard architect during the Second World War.

Boehning's pre-1945 work varied widely in type of project and in style, the latter perhaps a result of training in the eclectic firm of Trost and Trost. His early building ran the gamut from Mediterranean, English Cottage Romanesque Revival, and Spanish Pueblo Revival to Moderne, Art Deco, and Territorial Revival. His post-1945 work is primarily in the southwestern revival styles -- Spanish Pueblo and Territorial, as well as some Moderne style buildings. Edna Heatherington, in her 1978 thesis on Albuquerque architecture, noted that several of Boehning's buildings exhibit a post and beam appearance and a fineness of detail which could reflect his early work as a carpenter. Buildings in Albuquerque exhibiting this characteristic include the Skinner Building (1931) at 8th and Central SW, the Valliant Printing Building (1940) on Gold at 7th Street, the Shockey Office (1949) at 106 Richmond SE, and the Shirley Elledge Office Building (1946) at 3515 Central NE.

Boehning's major commissions also included: House Beautiful (Albuquerque, 1927); St. Anthony's Orphanage (Albuquerque, 1930); Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority (Albuquerque, 1931, demolished); Fremont's Grocery (Albuquerque, 1932); St. Charles Borromeo Church (Albuquerque, 1935); Veteran's Memorial Building-U.S.O. (Albuquerque, 1936, demolished); Royer House (Albuquerque, 1936); Santa Fe National Guard Armory (1938); Barelvas Community Center (Albuquerque, 1940); National Guard Armory (Gallup, 1941); National Guard Armory (Tucumcari, 1941); American Legion Headquarters (Albuquerque, 1941, 1949); St. Joseph Catholic Church (Aztec, 1946); Ernie Pyle Junior High School (Albuquerque, 1947); St. Francis Xavier Church (Albuquerque, 1949); Our Lady of Fatima School (1949) and Convent (1951) in Albuquerque; Socorro Electric Co-op (1952); and San Felipe Junior High School (Albuquerque, 1955).

Boehning's architectural documents, (including the original drawings of the St. Anthony's Orphanage Chapel), are located at the John Gaw Meem Archive of Southwestern Architecture, Special Collections, University of New Mexico.

Sources: Albuquerque City Directories, 1920-1954; Edna Heatherington Bergman, "The Fate of Architectural Theory in Albuquerque, 1920-1960," Unpub. M.Arch. Thesis, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, 1978; Interview with A. W. Boehning, Jr., 3-28-1988; "In Observance of 30 Years of Participation in New Mexico's Architectural Development, 1924-1954," business brochure for Boehning firm, no author, n.d.

Y. FOOTNOTES:

1. Building permits, construction drawings or other documentation could not be found confirming actual building dates for the Classroom-Dormitory or the Auditorium. A copy of a newspaper article heralds the opening of these buildings, but the name of the newspaper and the paper's date cannot be found. The 1919 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map shows only the original orphanage building built in 1914; it does not include the Classroom-Dormitory or the Auditorium. The 1924 Sandborn Map includes both buildings. We can assume, therefore, the buildings were constructed between 1920 and 1924.
2. The original construction drawings for the Chapel are dated 24 September 1930. The first mass was held in the Chapel in 1931.
3. "Brief History, St. Anthony's Orphanage, Albuquerque, New Mexico". Provided by Sister Stephanie McReynolds, Mt. St. Francis, P.O. Box 1060, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901, p.1.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Albuquerque Evening Herald, 19 May 1914.
7. United States Department of the Interior, National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form for St. Anthony's Orphanage, Section 8 ("Significance"), p. 1.
8. Albuquerque Morning Journal, 16 October 1914.
9. Herald, 19 May 1914.
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. Albuquerque Tribune, 18 April 1986.
13. "Brief History", p. 1.
14. Ibid.
15. (Assumed to be an Albuquerque newspaper, month and day unknown), 1920-1924?
16. (Assumed to be an Albuquerque newspaper, month and day unknown), 1949.
17. "Brief History", p. 2.
18. Ibid.
19. Tribune, 18 April 1986.
20. Ibid.

21. "Brief History", p. 2.
22. Ibid., p. 3.
23. Ibid., p. 4.
24. Ibid.
25. Ibid.
26. Tribune, 18 April 1986.
27. "Brief History", p. 3.
28. Letter to State Historic Preservation Office from Mary P. Davis, Preservation Planning Redevelopment Division, City of Albuquerque. Albuquerque, 17 January 1986.
29. Sheila Hannah, "Elson H. Norris", Directory of Historic New Mexico Architects, ed. Boyd C. Pratt, Carleen Lazzell, Chris Wilson, ms. on file, John Gaw Meem Archive of Southwestern Architecture, Special Collections, General Library, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque (October 1988).
30. Attempts were made by Boyd C. Pratt, primary editor of the Directory of Historic New Mexico Architects and by Sheila Hannah, author of "Elson H. Norris", to establish construction dates for all of Norris' buildings. They were unable to find dates for buildings marked "(19??)". Construction drawings for a number of his buildings are located at the John Gaw Meem Archive of Southwestern Architecture. The drawings, however, do not include dates.
31. Mary P. Davis, "A.W. Boehning Sr.", Directory of Historic New Mexico Architects.

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Building 'H': The Auditorium

